

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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3.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING

REF: CARACAS 3949

1. FOLLOWING IS THE OFFICIAL MINISTRY OF INTER PRESS
RELEASE: (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

2. QUOTE: TITLE - THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO TAKE OVER
OWENS-ILLINOIS.

" THE GOV DECIDED TUESDAY TO ACQUIRE THE STOCK OF OWENS-ILLINOIS
OF VENEZUELA BECAUSE THIS COMPANY VIOLATED VENEZUELAN
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL NORMS WHICH ARE UNAVOIDABLE
AND OBLIGATORY FOR OPERATING IN THIS COUNTRY. THE
DECISION WAS ADOPTED IN A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS HELD TUESDAY MORNING BECAUSE THE PARENT
COMPANY IN OHIO MADE PUBLIC A COMMUNIQUE PRODUCED BY
OUTLAWED SUBVERSIVE VENEZUELAN GROUPS WHICH OFFENDS
THE DIGNITY OF THE COUNTRY, PROMOTES SUBVERSION OF THE
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CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER, IGNORES THE LIGITIMACY OF

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, OFFENDS AND DEFAMES THE AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND IN PARTICULAR OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC.

"NO COMPANY-- STATES THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE-- CAN OPERATE IN VENEZUELA WITHOUT ABIDING BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY WHEN, AS IS THE CASE WITH OWENS-ILLINOIS, IT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY WARNED OF ITS OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A COMPANY OPERATING WITHIN THE NATIONAL TERRITORY.

"THEREFORE, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE OWENS-ILLINOIS SHARES, GIVING IT A JUST INDEMNIZATION." END PRESS RELEASE.

THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS:

" THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, IN THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD TODAY (TUESDAY), HAS DECIDED TO ACQUIRE ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE SHARES OF OWENS-ILLINOIS OF VENEZUELA WHICH ARE OWNED BY OWENS-ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL WHICH HAS ITS HEADQUARTERS IN OHIO, U.S.A., BECAUSE THIS TRANSNATIONAL COMPANY HAS VIOLATED THE LAWS AND CONSTITUTIONAL NORMS OF VENEZUELA WHICH ARE UNAVOIDABLE AND OBLIGATORY FOR OPERATING IN THIS COUNTRY. ALL PERSONS AND CORPORATIONS, VENEZUELAN AND FOREIGN, MUST COMPLY WITH AND OBEY THE CONSTITUTION, THE LAWS, THE DECREES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS WHICH, IN EXERCISE OF THEIR ATTRIBUTES, THE LEGITIMATE AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT MAY FORMULATE.

"THE INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, OWENS-ILLINOIS OF OHIO, ON BEHALF OF ITS SUBSIDIARY, OWENS-ILLINOIS OF VENEZUELA, HAS PUBLISHED IN THE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS OF THE USA AND EUROPE A COMMUNICATION OF OUTLAWED SUBVERSIVE VENEZUELAN GROUPS WHICH OFFENDS THE DIGNITY OF THE COUNTRY, PROMOTES THE SUBVERSION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER, IGNORES THE LEGITIMACY OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, OFFENDS AND DEFAMES THE AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, AND PARTICULARLY OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC. THESE ARE SERIOUS ACTS WHICH INJURE DEEPLY THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND WHICH CANNOT BE TOLERATED BY THE

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GOVERNMENT.

"NO COMPANY CAN OPERATE IN VENEZUELA WITHOUT RESPECTING THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY AND IN THIS RESPECT OWENS-ILLINOIS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ADVISED OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS AS A FOREIGN COMPANY OPERATING IN THE NATIONAL TERRITORY.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT INDEFFERENT TO THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC CONCERN OF THE OWENS-ILLINOIS

COMPANY OVER THE KIDNAPPING OF WILLIAM NIEHOUS, MANAGER OF THE VENEZUELAN SUBSIDIARY, BUT THE COMPANY IS SERVING AS THE SPOKESMAN AND PUBLICIST FOR THE CRIMINAL ACTION OF THE DELINQUENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KIDNAPPING.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS ADOPTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO ADOPT ALL THE ADVISABLE AND NECESSARY MEASURES TO GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF VENEZUELANS AND FOREIGNERS WITHIN THE NATIONAL TERRITORY BUT WILL NOT ACCEPT NOR AGREE TO ANY TYPE OF COMPLICITY WITH CRIMINAL GROUPS NOR, ESPECIALLY, CAN IT ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR FOREIGN ENTITIES WHICH ARE IN FACT SUBJECT TO THE SAME LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AS VENEZUELAN ENTITIES.

"THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT ACTS IN DEFENSE OF ALL VENEZUELAN SOCIETY. IT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, BUT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY THIS SIGNIFY THE DEROGATION OF VENEZUELAN LAWS APPLYING TO FOREIGN FIRMS OR PERSONS.

"THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF ALL RESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA ARE PROTECTED AND GUARANTEED BY THE LAW AND THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES. ANY ABUSE, VIOLATION OR CRIME WHICH IS COMMITTED AGAINST THESE IN THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC WILL BE SEVERELY REPRIMANDED AND THE GUILTY SHALL BE PUNISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECISIONS OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE. ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS OBVIOUS THAT VENEZUELANS AS MUCH AS FOREIGNERS FACE THE RISKS OF CRIMINAL ACTIONS THAT IN TODAY'S WORLD HAVE ACQUIRED VERY ALARMING PROPORTIONS AND WHICH OBLIGE THE OFFICIALS OF THE STATE TO ADOPT THE MOST FIRM AND ENERGETIC POSITIONS TO CONTRAVENE THESE THREATS AND ACHIEVE TRUE CIVILIAN SECURITY AND TRANQUILITY; SOMETHING WHICH CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY COMPROMISE OR SUBMISSION TO THE DESIGNS OF DELINQUENTS OR CRIMINALS.

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"THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL ADOPT ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO TRANSFER OWENS-ILLINOIS OF VENEZUELA SHARES AND WILL AUTHORIZE JUSE INDEMNIZATION. AT THE SAME TIME THE GOVERNMENT REITERATES ITS STRONG DETERMINATION TO GUARANTEE AND SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF FOREIGNERS WHO ARE LEGALLY ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTRY AND ABIDING BY THE PRE-ESTABLISHED LEGAL REGULATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED AND PRACTICED REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

"FINALLY, THE NATIONALS GOVERNMENT CALLS ON THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COUNTRY, BOTH VENEZUELAN AND RESIDENT FOREIGNERS, TO MOBILIZE ALL THE RESOURCES OF THE COMMUNITY TO HALT AND IMPEDE TERRORIST ACTIONS THROUGH WHICH AN ATTEMPT IS MADE TO DISTURB THE PUBLIC TRANQUILITY AND DISCREDIT THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF

THE GOVERNMENT. IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EFFICACY OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ENHANCED TO THE EXTENT THAT THE COOPERATION AND THE COMPREHENSION OF THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTS THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STATE WHICH IS 'TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT, GUARANTEE HUMAN DIGNITY AND PROMOT THE GENERAL WELL BEING AND SECURITY OF THE SOCIETY,' AS THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION STATES.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS READY, AS WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED, TO ACT WITHOUT HESITATION IN SITUATIONS WHICH ARE SO DELICATE THAT THEY AFFECT THE SPIRITUAL TRANQUILITY, THE PHYSICAL SECURITY, AND THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND WELL BEING OF BOTH VENEZUELAN AND FOREIGNERS. ITS ACTIONS WILL BE IN ACCORD WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND TH LAW AND IN NO WAY WILL BE USED TO TAKE ARBITRARY DECISIONS WHICH WILL PREJUDICE OR DIMINISH THE RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES OF VENEZUELAN OR FOREIGNERS WHO RESIDE WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

"IN THE MOST EXPLICIT AND CATEGORIC WAY THE GOVERNMENT RESTATES ITS DECISION TO REJECT ANY ACTION, PROCEDURE OR NEGOTIATION WHICH WOULD IMPLY THAT WE ARE SATISFYING REQUESTS OR CONDITIONS FROM KIDNAPPERS OR TERRORISTS; AND WE WILL NOT PERMIT THAT RANSOMS OR BRIBES OF ANY KIND BE PAID. WE ARE SUPPORTED IN THIS BY THE LAW, BOTH ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL, WHICH IS APPLICABLE TO ANY PERSON WHO MAKES UNCLASSIFIED

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HIMSELF AN ACCOMPLICE TO A CRIMINAL ACT.

"CARACAS, APRIL 6, 1976 END QUOTE AND END COMMUNIQUE.
SHLAUDEMAM

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